



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-0029  
5 May 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Hong Kong Bureau Monthly Report for April 1981

I. OPERATIONS

1. XINHUA Coverage: At this writing we are on the verge of concluding a contract with New China News, Ltd., which will enable the bureau to monitor XINHUA Chinese transmissions. This will provide a reliable backup for Okinawa Bureau's coverage and will also enable Hong Kong Bureau to be more closely attuned to events, reportage and comment in China.

2. Coverage of Lhasa: The bureau this month assumed coverage of Lhasa radio from Okinawa Bureau, where seasonal reception changes have rendered Lhasa unmonitorable.

3. MIDAS Test: The bureau participated in a two-week test of MIDAS' "pinkie-code" (we really must find a better name for it) capitalization system. During the test we encountered a few problems with the communications system and with EXTEL ASR design, but for the most part things went quite well. Initially, editors and teletypists were slowed down somewhat by the capitalization process, but after a short time they developed the necessary new habits and regained most of the lost ground. All in all, from the bureau's standpoint the test was a success.

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. MODE Approval: The consul general this month approved the increase of ten Category III positions, to be filled as it stands now by seven monitors, two teletypists, and one associate editor. These positions will go a long way toward helping us meet the goal of greater exploitation of the burgeoning Chinese media.

We already had been testing monitor applicants, both to fill the remaining vacancy in our present T.O. and to identify talented candidates for future positions.

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Four recent candidates tested very well, and we have begun processing them for employment. Three of the four are recent exiles from the mainland. They are presently employed elsewhere and submitted their applications with the understanding that actual positions are uncertain at this time. The remaining candidate, whom we were prepared to employ immediately to fill our existing vacancy, has informed us that, because he is in Hong Kong on a student visa, he will not be able to work for us until September when he will be able to change his immigration status. The offer of employment to him has thus been made contingent on the availability of a future position. (AIUO)

Monitor, Teletypist EOD: Monitor [ ] and teletypist [ ] entered on duty on 7 April. [ ] who was a contract translator for the bureau prior to his fulltime employment, has already shown great promise as a fast, accurate monitor.

Meanwhile, we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new monitor [ ] and returned monitor [ ] both of whom are expected to come aboard in mid-May.

3. [ ] Returns: To the great pleasure of his colleagues, monitor [ ] who had been on sick leave for several weeks to correct a detached retina, returned to duty on 30 April. Francis will have to ease back into harness, however, concentrating for the time being on radio work in order to minimize the strain on his eyesight.

4. Cost of Living Increase: The consulate this month announced an 8.7 percent cost of living wage increase for foreign national personnel to be effective 3 May. The personnel officer's cheering announcement noted that this increase, on top of October's 5.6 percent cost of living raise, represented a 14.3 percent increase since the introduction of the new wage scale in May 1980--and this led to a brief flap. A number of FSN's pointed out that, since the new increase had not actually taken effect, it was incorrect to count it as part of the May 1980-May 1981 wage picture, and that the real increase was therefore much less. The flap arose when the personnel officer refused to allow this line of argument to be raised in a brief article in the "Congen Pao," the Consulate's weekly newspaper. This prompted a widely-circulated anti-censorship protest memorandum to the consul general. But the subsequent issue of the Congen Pao contained nothing on the subject, and unless the protestors are formulating battle plans under ground, the whole thing seems to have blown over.

### III. VISITS

Okinawa Bureau editor [ ] visited the bureau on 24 April.

#### Attachments:

- A. Production
- B. List of Equipment Received
- cc: Orig. + 3 Hqs.
- Chief, Okinawa and Seoul Bureaus
- File

[ ]  
Acting Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

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